



10 DEC 1964

9 December 1964

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT: Adequacy of Present Arrangements for the Development of Estimates on the Plans and Capabilities of Foreign Nations in the Nuclear Field**

1. You will remember that the Director asked me to look at the process by which estimates involving nuclear developments are formulated. Annexed is a status report on this subject. In summary I think it premature at this time to consider organizational changes in the Agency or the community for the purpose of improving our capacity to deal with nuclear matters.

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[REDACTED] Further examination of this specific problem should help us to determine whether there has been a serious intelligence failure and, if so, what caused it and what remedial action should be taken. At this time any attempt to assess the adequacy of present working arrangements is likely to involve assumptions which are speculative and contentious.

2. In the meantime, one step of an essentially non-controversial nature can be taken which seems to me desirable. This is to add a staff member and/or member of the Board to the Office of National Estimates with scientific and technical competence (preferably not limited to nuclear physics).

3. On this specific proposal Sherman Kent has the following comments:

"As to your suggestion to expand the nuclear competence of ONE by adding one member to the Staff and perhaps another member to the Board, I have mixed feelings. If we could get exactly the right people and the Director were willing to expand our TO, I would be an enthusiastic backer. Expansions of TOs in present circumstances are frequently more difficult than appear at first glance. But I wish to be on record as saying that we ought not to be asked to allocate two of our present professional slots for this purpose.

"There would be no difficulty in absorbing 100 percent of the time of the staffer on purely nuclear matters. It would be more difficult to justify using a Board member full-time. Perhaps a better way of putting it would be to say that we have greater need on the Board for a senior scientist with a general scientific competence than for a more narrowly-based atomic physicist. The ideal man would be one who could easily get on top of nuclear problems and who as well could lend a sure professional hand with the welter of scientific and technical matters we are now dealing with. To name the most important: biological and chemical weaponry, space, missilery, electronics, lasers, etc."

*John A. Bross*

**JOHN A. BROSS  
D/DCI/NIFE**

**Attachment  
Status Report**

cc: DDI  
AD/NE  
DD/S&T